

SICK AG

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**Abstract**

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An optical monitoring apparatus has a light transmitter for the transmission of at least two light beams offset substantially parallel to one another into a protected zone as well as a light receiver for the reception of the transmitted light beams and for the outputting of corresponding received signals. The light receiver has at least one photo-sensitive element having an elongate light-sensitive region whose elongate direction is aligned parallel to the arrangement of the light beams perpendicular to the direction of transmission such that all radiated light beams can be completely detected by the light sensitive region. A control circuit is provided for the distinguishing of the light beams which causes the light transmitter to make a transmission of the light beams offset in time.